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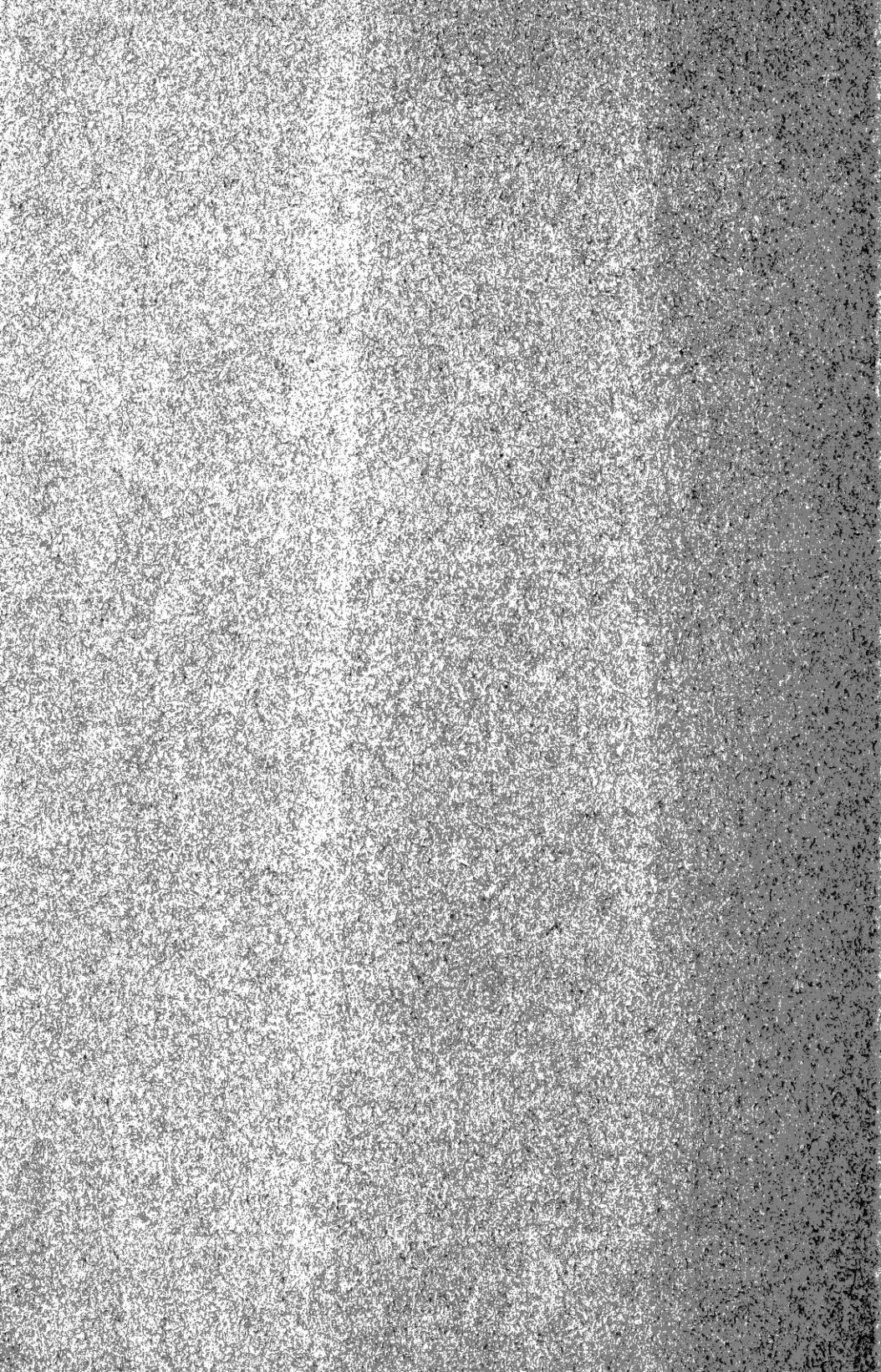
**The New York State Agricultural  
College at Ovid, N. Y. and Higher  
Agricultural Education**

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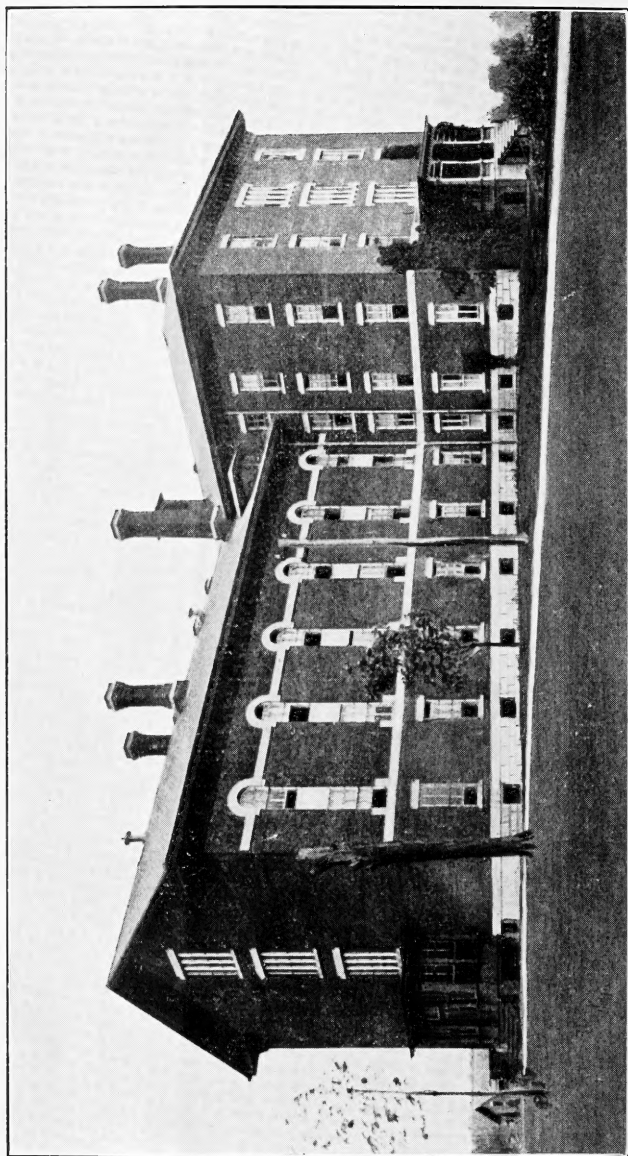
**An Historical Paper  
By Diedrich Willers  
of Varick, N. Y.**



**1907**







THE NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.  
( IN THE TOWN OF OVID )

# The New York State Agricultural College, at Ovid, and Higher Agricultural Education.

## AN HISTORICAL PAPER

Read at a Meeting of the Seneca County Historical Society

Held at Romulus, Sept. 5, 1906,

BY

DIEDRICH WILLERS,

OF VARICK, N. Y.

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## THE N. Y. STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, AT OVID, N. Y., AND HIGHER AGRICUL- TURAL EDUCATION.

It has been well said by an eminent New York Statesman, that "the cultivation of the soil is the foundation of all public prosperity." From the time when the first man Adam, the father of the human race was driven from the Garden of Eden, and was commanded to till the ground in the sweat of his face, until the present time, farming has been a prominent and leading industry. It is not the purpose of the writer however, to trace its various stages and the advance made in farming from its primitive conditions up to the methods of farming now practiced in the Twentieth Century.

In our own country—the United States—farming as carried on by white men, dates back less than three centuries. A portion of New York State, on Long Island, and bordering on the Hudson River and Long Island Sound, was settled a little more than 250 years ago. At the time of the Revolutionary War, the population of this State was still principally located on Long Island and Manhattan Island, and localities adjacent to the Hudson River and Long Island Sound. Central and Western New York at the time of, and during the Revolutionary War, was an unbroken forest inhabited by its Aboriginal owners, the Iroquois. Settlements began to be made in this part of the State, soon after 1785, (say 1787), and by 1790 some advance had been made; but by reason of labors necessary in clearing the forest, and the development of a newly settled country, slow progress was made. It may, therefore, be truly said, that farming in the Western and Central part of this State, had its real beginning only about one hundred years ago.

Already in the early years of the last century, the question of higher and scientific agricultural education, was sometimes advocated by public men of this State (of whom Governor Clinton,

Hon. Simeon DeWitt and Elkanah Watson may be mentioned) and by farmers of advanced views.

A Society for the promotion of agriculture had, it is true, been organized in this State as early as 1793, but very little was accomplished by it. In 1819 an Act was passed to improve the agriculture of the State, which expired already, by limitation, in 1826. The Legislature of 1836 passed an Act to incorporate the New York State Agricultural School, upon a stock basis, which resulted in failure. While Agricultural Societies were from time to time organized in different parts of the State, nothing permanent was arrived at, until the organization of the "New York State Agricultural Society," Feby. 16, 1832, of which Society, Hon. Robert S. Rose of Fayette, was included in its first Board of Officers. A re-organization of this Society took place in the year 1841. This was followed soon after, by the formation of County Agricultural Societies in most of the Counties of this State—the Seneca County Agricultural Society having been organized, June 19th, 1841.

A State Agricultural Fair has been annually held for many years and County Fairs in most of the Counties of the State. One of the features of these Fairs, has been Agricultural Addresses and discussions, in which topics such as geology, botany, agricultural chemistry, analysis of soils and kindred subjects were conspicuous, as indeed also the subject of higher Agricultural Education.

The discussions thus inaugurated were further advanced and carried forward in several Agricultural Newspapers published in this State. In an Agricultural Address published in the Transactions of the New York State Agricultural Society in 1856, reference is made to the existence of a number of Agricultural Colleges in Europe as early as 1844, and that one each, had been chartered in the States of Michigan, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Among the prominent farmers in this State, who early took a deep interest in advancing the subject of higher agricultural education by the State, and who frequently delivered public addresses upon this subject, was the Hon. John Delafield, of the Town of Fayette, Seneca County, a native of Ravenswood, Long Island, (now a part of Greater New York), and a graduate of Columbia College. After serving five years as President of the Seneca County Agricultural Society, he was in 1851, elected President of the New York State Agricultural Society. In his address on



entering upon the duties of his office, he forcibly presented the question of the establishment of an Agricultural College in this State, which had already been unsuccessfully presented to the State Legislatures in 1849 and 1850, and indeed earlier. Mr. Delafield had been ably seconded in his efforts in behalf of higher agricultural education by Gov. John A. King, Hon. Louis F. Allen, Hon. Henry Wager, Hon. Wm. Kelly and others, who continued to the end, his steadfast co-laborers and supporters.

The question of the incorporation of an Agricultural College with Experiment Farm, was brought before the State Legislature in the years 1851 and 1852, but again failed.

It was not until April 15th, 1853, that greatly through the efforts of Mr. Delafield, the Legislature passed an Act to incorporate the New York State Agricultural College. This Act or Charter, named John Delafield, Henry Wager, B. P. Johnson, William Kelly, John A. King, N. B. Kidder, Joel W. Bacon, William Buel, Tallmadge Delafield and Robert J. Swan, as Incorporators and Trustees of said College.

The Act of Incorporation provided, that the plan of instruction shall embrace the following branches of knowledge: Practical and Scientific Agriculture; Chemistry and its Manipulations, (so far as it may be usefully connected with agriculture); Mathematics and Mechanics; Surveying and Engineering; Geology and Botany; the practical management of the farm, of the dairy and of the various kinds of live stock, also such other branches of knowledge as may be deemed useful and proper. The Act further provided, that the farm and grounds of the College shall consist of not less than three hundred acres of land. The Act of Incorporation made no State appropriation in aid of the College, leaving it to the Trustees to procure private contributions in order to carry out its provisions.

Soon after the passage of this Act of Incorporation, the Trustees of the College unanimously elected John Delafield as its President, and also designated his fine farm of 352 acres, in Fayette, known as "Oaklands Farm" as the location of the College and Experiment Farm, to become effective as soon as money sufficient should be raised to purchase the same and then to go forward with the instruction.

Considerable progress had been made toward raising the neces-

sary amount of money, when Mr. Delafield suddenly died, Oct. 22, 1853, at the age of sixty-seven years. The death of Mr. Delafield, for a time, checked the prosecution of work for an Agricultural College. It was revived, however, in 1855, by citizens of Ovid and vicinity, under the leadership of Rev. Amos Brown and others, and brought before the Legislature of 1856, which authorized a loan by the State, of Forty Thousand Dollars to such College, provided a like amount be raised by private contribution—such State loan to be secured by mortgage upon the lands of the College. It was hoped by many, that the Legislature would appropriate this amount as a gift to the farmers of the State, but it will be seen later on, that the State Authorities held strictly to its lien therefor.

The subscription of Forty Thousand Dollars having been obtained for purchase of a College Farm, the Trustees of the College, after examining three different groups of land, (two near Ovid Village, and one near Sheldrake and Kidders, adjoining Cayuga Lake), selected 686 acres, including 175 acres of wooded land, for such College Farm, situate in the Towns of Ovid and Romulus, at a cost of only about Five Thousand Dollars above the amount raised by private subscription.

The lands thus purchased in 1856, for such Farm, with the names of Grantors, the number of acres conveyed by each one and the prices agreed to be paid therefor, were as follows to wit:

1.	Morris E. Kinne.....	233.80 acres	\$13,794.20
2.	Mrs. Sarah Sutton .....	66.72 "	4,336.80
3.	Cor. Bodine and others.....	17.97 "	1,078.20
4.	A. S. Purdy and D. Dunnett.....	126.36 "	8,213.40
5.	A. Bray Johnson .....	116.21 "	6,972.60
6.	Romaine Barnum .....	59.23 "	3,849.95
7.	Elijah Barnum .....	61.44 "	3,993.60
8.	Elizabeth Kirkpatrick (Lot) .....	1. "	1,000.00
9.	Lewis Swarthout, (Lot) .....	1. "	800.00
10.	A. L. Furman, (Lot) .....	1. "	1,000.00
11	{ Late Burying Ground } .....	1.5 "	
	{ C. Bodine and others }		
		686.23 "	\$45,038.75

Parcels 4, 5, 6 and 7 were purchased subject to individual mortgages assumed by the College Trustees.

This group of land was bounded at its East end by the Village

Corporation Line of Ovid; west by Seneca Lake, and North by the road leading from Ovid to Seneca Lake, at the locality originally called Lancaster, then known as "Ovid Landing" or "Baleytown" being about two and one-half miles long East and West and about half a mile wide on Seneca Lake, varying in width from 120 to 180 rods.

In their first Annual Report to the Legislature, the Trustees mention that the land thus purchased, contains a building spot or site on that part of the farm lying in the Town of Ovid, about one mile east of Seneca Lake, rising 583 ft. above the Lake, and "commanding a view of great beauty and grandeur" with Geneva at the North and more than twenty miles of the Lake, and the College Building was afterwards located on this site.

With the farm thus acquired, the Trustees of the College took early steps in preparation for the erection of the College Building. Stone for erection of its foundation and basement and for building-lime, was quarried upon the College Farm; bricks were made from clay found upon the Farm, and timber from the wooded lands of the farm, was prepared, for use in part, in the proposed building. Plans for the College Building were also prepared and steps were taken to secure competent College Officers and Instructors.

The Trustees, from the beginning, met with many delays and discouragements in the erection of the College Building. At first, a whole year was lost, when the State Authorities found that the loan of Forty Thousand Dollars authorized by the Legislature of 1856, from the income of the United States Deposit Fund, could not be made, on account of shortage in that Fund, and the Legislature of 1857 had to authorize the loan to be made from another Fund.

It was early ascertained, that the moneys available, would be insufficient to erect the College Building as originally designed for three hundred and fifty or more students, and the Trustees, in the Summer of 1858, adopted a modified plan, for the erection of a Brick Building with slate roof, the South Transverse Wing, four stories high, 56x128 ft., and the lateral wing, three stories high and an attic, 60x84½ ft. A contract for the erection of such building (S. E. Hewes, Architect) was entered into with Thomas Crawford, a competent builder of Geneva, N. Y., in September,

1858, for the sum of \$33,500 including preparations for heating, lighting, ventilation and water. Water to be brought to the building from a spring in the East end of the Farm. Such building to accommodate one hundred and fifty students—the plan being so arranged that additions could thereafter be made to the building.

The first President of the College, appointed by the Trustees, was Hon. Samuel Cheever, of Waterford, Saratoga County, N. Y., a former Judge of the Court of Common Pleas and President of the State Agricultural Society in 1855, also a College Trustee. Judge Cheever arrived and took charge of the College Farm, April 7th, 1857. The date of his appointment as President has not been ascertained. In his report as President to the Legislature of 1858, (the first annual report of the College) he recounts his experience in conducting the farm operations of the year 1857 and the many difficulties which he encountered.

In the second annual report to the Legislature of 1859, by the Trustees, Hon. John A. King, Chairman, mention is made of the resignation of Judge Cheever as President, which took effect June 30th, 1858. The Farm operations of part of the year 1858 and 1859, were largely conducted under the direction of one of the Trustees, Hon. Henry Wager of Oneida County, a former President of the State Agricultural Society and Chairman of the Farm Committee and the Building Committee of the Board of Trustees. The number of Trustees had been increased to seventeen, under an Act of the Legislature of 1857, Arad Joy of Ovid (who served several years as Treasurer of the Board) being one of the additional Trustees. Major Marsena R. Patrick of Sacketts Harbor, N. Y., a graduate of West Point Military Academy, and a man of rare qualifications, who had entered the U. S. Army in 1835, serving in the Florida Indian War and the Mexican War, advancing to the rank of major, was appointed President of the College, September 23, 1859, and soon afterwards entered upon the duties of his office.

Major Patrick, in the third annual report of the College to the Legislature of 1860, as President, sets forth the progress made during the year 1859. He mentions the fact, that the Corner Stone of the College Building, was laid July 7th, 1859, by Hon. John A. King, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, "in the presence of a

vast concourse of people who had gathered to testify their deep interest in the cause to which the Structure is dedicated."

The *Ovid Bee* newspaper, contained an extended account of the corner stone laying. Its editor estimated the number of persons present, as fully three thousand, coming from all parts of Seneca County, and from distant villages and cities. Col. John Y. Manning of Ovid, a veteran of the War of 1812, acted as Marshal of the procession, which formed and moved to the College site, preceded by a Cornet Band. After prayer, a box was deposited in the corner stone containing a copy of the Holy Bible, newspapers of the day, with Legislative reports and agricultural pamphlets, etc. The corner stone was then laid by Ex. Governor John A. King, after which he delivered an able and appropriate address. He was followed by Major M. R. Patrick in an address brief and eloquent, in which he made happy allusion to the metamorphosis of Ovid, in classics, in comparison with the transformation which had taken place in our Town of Ovid, since General John Sullivan's Army had marched across the College Farm, eighty years previous, in 1779. Other addresses were delivered by Hon. A. B. Conger, of Rockland County and Hon. Josiah B. Williams of Ithaca, and every one present returned home with bright anticipations as to the future of the College.

In his report, President Patrick also refers to the financial difficulties encountered by the Trustees, which retarded the progress of the work upon the Building. In the same report, President Patrick presents an outline of the Terms and General Course of Study proposed to be pursued in the College. There were to be two terms of study in each year—the Summer Term from April 15th to November 1st, and the Winter Term from December 1st to March 1st. The full course of study to cover a period of three years, both theoretical and practical. The classes to be known as the Freshman, Junior and Senior Classes, and no students to be admitted under sixteen years of age.

Time and space will not permit a recapitulation of the details of the proposed course of study. Suffice it to say, that with the exception of ancient classical and certain modern languages, it comprised a course of study, nearly or quite equal to that of the best literary and scientific Colleges. Charges for board and instruction were fixed at a very moderate rate.

In subsequent reports to the Legislature, it is stated that the Agricultural College had been so far completed that it was opened for the reception of students December 5th, 1860, when a class of twenty-seven young men entered the Institution. In addition to President Patrick, the Trustees had secured the services as instructors and lecturers, of Rev. Dr. George Kerr in mathematics, philosophy and astronomy; of Dr. James P. Kimball as professor of Agricultural Chemistry; of Prof. Mitchell in engineering and military drill; and of Prof. Horton in botany and assistant in mathematics and chemistry.

Dr. Wm. H. Brewer, for several years Principal of Ovid Academy, was an early appointee of the College Trustees for the Professorship of agricultural chemistry—but in view of long delays in opening the school, he resigned his professorship in October, 1860. In after years, he was prominently connected with Yale College and is still living at New Haven, Connecticut, at the advanced age of seventy-eight years.

Rev. Dr. Kerr assumed charge of the duties of President during the frequent absence of President Patrick in the latter part of his connection with the College.

The number of students after the opening of the first term, increased from time to time and in April, 1861, numbered about forty.

A considerable number of students were residents of other States (one from Florida). Among the students from Seneca County, so far as ascertained, were Andrew Dunlap, of Ovid, (now an officer of high rank—Rear Admiral—in the United States Navy); William L. Eastman of Ovid, (afterwards a prominent farmer and stock raiser who died in 1902); Willard B. Rising of Romulus (now a professor in the State University of California, at Berkeley); Chas. W. Rising, his brother, of Romulus, (who afterwards served as Supervisor of that town) with several students from Geneva and Ithaca and different parts of the State.

Among the students from localities outside of Seneca County, who afterwards became prominent, were T. Chalmers McLean of New Hartford, Oneida Co., N. Y., who became a distinguished officer in the United States Navy, and is now a Captain in command of the United States armed cruiser, Pennsylvania.

The small number of students in attendance at the College at



its opening, was somewhat disappointing, but there were special causes which tended to produce the same. One important cause was the long delayed opening of a New Institution, which really was an experiment in this country. In any year when a Presidential Election is in progress, business generally suffers and the attendance at Colleges is affected thereby. The exciting triangular contest for the Presidency in 1860, caused by a split in one of the great political parties of the country, clearly foreshadowed the result, and the Planters of the Southern States who had been liberal patrons of Colleges at the North, to a great extent, then and later, withdrew their patronage, seriously affecting the Agricultural College. There were other causes which induced the small attendance, not necessary to be recapitulated here.

After President Patrick had conducted the College for two partial Terms, the Civil War broke out, in April, 1861, and from this cause and financial difficulties, the Trustees suspended instruction at the College—Major Patrick having been called into the service of the State by Governor E. D. Morgan, May 4th, 1861, in the capacity of State Inspector General, a position which he held until April, 1862, when he entered the service of the United States, advancing in rank therein to that of Brigadier General, and later to Brevet Major General of Volunteers. Had Major Patrick continued in charge of the College, it might possibly have maintained its existence, although Colleges generally languished during the Civil War.

Before closing the College officially, however, in the spring of 1862, the Trustees asked from the Legislature an appropriation of the small sum of Five Thousand Dollars annually for five years, in aid of the College, which request was denied, as mentioned by President Faile in his address before the State Agricultural Society in 1864.

It was then the intention of the Trustees, upon the close of the war, to secure means, if practicable, to put the Institution again into active operation. The war, however, was protracted four years, and in the meantime, important events affecting the College transpired, notably the passage by Act of Congress of the "Morrill Act," so called, and action taken under the same by the Legislature of this State.

This Act introduced in the House of Representatives by Hon.

Justin S. Morrill of Vermont, became a law, July 2nd, 1862. It provided for a grant or appropriation to the several States, of thirty thousand acres of the Public Lands of the United States for each Representative and Senator in Congress, for the benefit of agriculture and mechanic arts, under which Act, the State of New York became entitled to thirty-three quotas or 990,000 acres of land, which, even at the government price of One Dollar and Twenty-Five Cents per acre, was worth nearly one and a quarter million of dollars.

The Fund derived from the sale of these lands, was to be invested in each State, and the interest therefrom devoted to the *endowment, support and maintenance* of at least one College in each State, where the *leading feature or object* would be the teaching of such branches of *agriculture* and the mechanics arts, as the Legislature should prescribe.

The passage of this Act revived the hopes of the friends of the State Agricultural College, that this munificent grant of Congress would be received by the State Institution at Ovid, the only College in the State fully organized for the distinctive purpose of Agricultural Education. Some rivalry arose, however, but the friends of the Agricultural College confidently believed that this fund entrusted to the State, would "not be misapplied or perverted to any other use or purpose whatever." It was generally anticipated and believed, that the State Agricultural College, which had been in full operation, if not allotted the entire grant, would receive one-half or at least one-third thereof, and that it would thus be placed upon an easy and safe financial basis. But all these hopes proved fallacious, it will be seen!

The Legislature of 1863, already on March 4th, formally accepted the Land Grant made to this State, under the provisions of the Act of Congress of the preceding year. At this Session of the Legislature, Charles Cook, a resident of Havana, (now known as Montour Falls) in the County of Schuyler, represented that locality in the New York State Senate. He was a man of reputed large wealth, prominent in political and business life, and in political accord with the majority, in both Houses of the Legislature.

Several years previous (1853) an Institution known as the Peoples' College, had been incorporated in this State, which was

located at Havana, Jany. 8th, 1857. In the year 1863, its College Buildings were unfinished and it had very little claim to consideration as a College.

It was for this Institution which had accomplished so little to commend it to the friends of higher agricultural education, and the location of which was in no way to be compared with that of the Ovid Agricultural College, that Senator Cook succeeded in obtaining from the State Legislature the benefits, income and revenues of the great Agricultural Land Grant by an Act passed May 14th, 1863. This Act, required the Trustees of the Peoples' College, within three years after its passage, to provide a Farm and College Building, properly arranged and furnished for at least 250 students together with certain other requirements.

Thus was seemingly consummated, an act of great injustice to the Agricultural College at Ovid! Legislators, who boasted of their patriotism, voted with Senator Cook, and forgot that the absence of President Patrick in the Military Service, had precipitated the closing of the State Agricultural College.

At the Annual Meeting of the State Agricultural Society held in February, 1864, a Resolution offered by Hon. Wm. Kelly was adopted, "deploring the action of the last Legislature, in bestowing upon a single Institution, and that not the representative of the Agricultural interests of the State, the whole of the vast Land Grant made by Congress," etc., and also urging the Legislature of that year "to repeal or modify said law, so that the State Agricultural College shall receive a full share of this noble grant, and that thus the intention of Congress may be fulfilled in the advancement of Agricultural Science."

The Legislature of 1864, however, failed to repeal or modify the Act of 1863. But the triumph of the friends of the Peoples' College was of short duration, and it soon became evident, that the requirements of the Act of 1863, would not be complied with.

Already at a meeting held during the State Agricultural Fair at Rochester, in 1864, Hon. Ezra Cornell, a wealthy resident of Ithaca, Tompkins County, submitted a proposition, that if the next State Legislature would appropriate one-half of the United States Land Grant and locate an Agricultural College at Ithaca, he would further endow it in the sum of \$300,000, and a Farm of not less than two hundred acres of land.

This offer, had it been carried into effect, might still have left the other one-half of the Land Grant to the Agricultural College at Ovid, and thus have happily and justly solved the question of its existence.

However, already on the twelfth day of January, 1865, only a few days after the convening of the State Legislature, Senator Ezra Cornell (who then held a seat in the New York State Senate, both Houses of the Legislature and the State Officers being also in political accord with him) changed his proposition, so as to ask for the entire College Land Grant, offering to make his proposed endowment \$500,000—and a Bill to give effect hereto was introduced in the Legislature.

Disheartened by delays and disappointments during the struggles of twelve years for existence, the friends of the State Agricultural College at Ovid were unable to overcome the efforts in behalf of the Ithaca movement, and Senator Cornell's Bill conveying all the benefits, income, revenue and avails of the United States Land Grant, became a Law. Legislators who had refused practical financial aid to the Ovid Agricultural College, evidently believed, that with the great United States College Land Grant and the proposed special endowment of the New College, the State would, for all future time be relieved from making any appropriations for the erection of buildings or for maintenance of the Agricultural School located at Ithaca.

It must be borne in mind, that in January, 1865 (when the proposition of Mr. Cornell was presented to the Legislature) Cornell University *had no existence whatever* and the same Act which bestowed the entire Land Grant passed by the Legislature, April 27 th, 1865, contained also the Charter or Incorporation of Cornell University.

And thus the State Agricultural College at Ovid received its final death blow!

Our topic relating also to the subject of "Higher Agricultural Education" generally, in this State, calls for a further statement however, as to subsequent legislation (after April, 1865), not only in connection with Cornell University, but also as to other action taken by Congress and our State Legislature relative to Agricultural instruction, research and experiment, in this State.

The State Charter and Land Grant Act of 1865 to Cornell

University "declared that" the *leading object* of the Corporation shall be to teach such branches of learning as are *related to Agriculture and the Mechanics Arts.*" It also provided that the Trustees of the University shall within two years from the passage of said Act, make provision in respect to buildings, fixtures and arrangements generally, to *fulfil the provisions of the Act of Congress.* The farm to be connected with the College, to consist of not less than two hundred acres of land.

The Act further provided, that the Institution shall annually receive one student from each Assembly District of the State, and shall give such students, instruction in any or all of the prescribed branches of study, free of any tuition fee, and the manner of selecting students is prescribed. The number of these students permitted, was not always filled, however.

From the beginning it was understood, that (as the name "University" indicated), an Institution of large proportions was to be established, somewhat upon the plan of Universities in Europe. This proved to be the case, and Departments were from time to time established under a number of Faculties, for a Classical Course, Scientific Course, Engineering Course, Law, Medicine, Architecture, Agriculture, etc., etc., and in later years a Veterinary College.

Soon after the acceptance by the State of the (Morrill) United States Land Grant, the State Comptroller received the Land Script therefor.

Only a part of the lands covered thereby, (seventy-six thousand acres), were however sold, soon thereafter, by the State.

In the fall of the year, 1865, Hon. Ezra Cornell purchased at the low price of fifty cents per acre, one hundred thousand acres for Cornell University, followed in 1866 by the further purchase by him of the remaining eight hundred and fourteen thousand acres, at a still lower price per acre with certain stipulations, in case of profits accruing on sale thereof, by him. The terms and conditions surrounding the several sales and investments need not however, here be stated at length. In the Register of Cornell University, 1905, it is stated that Senator Cornell made his purchases of land from the State for "general purposes" of the University, at a very small and nominal price, indeed, and the fact remains, that Cornell University by reason of acquiring this large

land grant from this State and the United States, received all the benefits therefrom, then and thereafter, and secured a very large and valuable endowment from the same. The cause of Agricultural Education, may, therefore, equitably lay claim for deserved and just consideration and support therefrom.

In the year 1874, the University still held four hundred thousand acres of these lands located in a Western State, chiefly valuable pine lands.

At the time of the death of Mr. Cornell, December 9, 1874, only about six years after the opening of Cornell University, it already gave promise of attaining a high rank among the institutions of learning of this State. It may here be mentioned, that during Mr. Cornell's life time, the University was maintained without calling upon the Legislature for any aid, either for the *erection of buildings* for any purpose, or for the *maintenance* of the University in its school of agriculture.

Previous to the death of Mr. Cornell, there had been received for the benefit of the University, from the sale of part of the U. S. lands, nearly one million of dollars. In the Register of Cornell University 1905-1906—from which this data has been ascertained, it is mentioned that the University has already realized a net return of about four million eight hundred dollars, from sales of these United States lands, since 1874, leaving some land still unsold and increasing in value.

The University has also received many gifts and bequests, from persons other than Senator Cornell.

The original Charter of the University, authorized it to hold real and personal property, in amount not exceeding three millions of dollars, but this limitation was removed by Act of the Legislature, passed May 12th, 1882.

The *New York World Almanac* for 1906, publishes statistics of Colleges and Universities of the United States for the year 1905, from which it appears, that the total income of Cornell University for the last year, including tuition fees, amounted to \$1,020,500.

Its productive funds are reported as amounting to \$7,924,912. The number of students of the University for 1905, as published in the *New York World Almanac*, is given as 3,841—a number exceeded by only five or six Universities in the United States. The Register of Cornell University, 1905-1906, however, gives



the number of regular students for the year as 3,385, with the addition of 619 for Summer session and 119 for Winter session, in 1905. Of this number of students, 121 are given as regular students in the College of Agriculture in 1905 and 102 as special students in same school. In addition to these, 87 students, are reported as instructed in the New York State Veterinary College, allied to the Agricultural College.

If the total number of students instructed in the College of Agriculture and the Veterinary College, regular and special, are combined, the total number is three hundred and ten (310) and this does not indicate, that *Agricultural Science* is a *leading object* of study at Cornell University.

The number of students graduated June 22, 1905 at College Commencement, from the Agricultural College, was nineteen and from the Veterinary College, twenty-six, a total of forty-five (45)—a small percentage of the entire number of graduates from the several Departments of the University.

The Trustees of the State Agricultural College at Ovid, were evidently not far from correct, in their estimate, in planning a building for three hundred and fifty regular students, for a distinctive Agricultural College and Experiment Station.

The liberality of the Legislature of this State to Cornell University, in the bestowment of the United States College Land Grant, and in special legislation for its benefit, has been further manifested in various ways. In the year 1887, the Congress of the United States, passed an act to establish *Agricultural Experiment Stations*, in connection with Colleges, established in the several States, under the United States Land Grant act of 1862. Already in 1889, the Legislature of this State, designated Cornell University to receive all appropriations, money or benefits arising under said Act of Congress, in aid of *Scientific investigation and experiment in Agriculture*.

These benefits and appropriations amounting to fifteen thousand dollars per annum, were solely received by Cornell University up to the year 1894. In that year, the Legislature allowed a slight change to be made in the distribution of benefits under this Act, so that nine-tenths thereof should be received by Cornell University, and the remaining one-tenth by the New York Agricultural Experiment Station, established at Geneva in 1881.

This concession, to the Geneva Experiment Station, was made as it is stated, to secure to that Institution, the franking privilege for its Farm Bulletins and other publications.

At the recent session of the Fifty-ninth Congress, an act was passed, which received the approval of the President, March 16, 1906, to provide for an increased appropriation for the more complete endowment and maintenance of *Agricultural Experiment Stations*, established in the several States. This act provides for the payment to the Experiment Stations as recognized in each State by its Legislature, of the sum of five thousand dollars on June 30, 1906, in addition to the present appropriation (authorized by Congress in 1887 as aforesaid) and an annual increase of the amount of such appropriation, thereafter, for five years, by an additional sum of two thousand dollars over the preceding year—the annual amount to be paid thereafter to each State to be thirty thousand dollars.

From and after June 30, 1911, therefore, the annual appropriation to Experiment Stations, as recognized in each State, will reach the full sum of thirty thousand dollars, under legislation of Congress, to be applied in paying the necessary expenses of *conducting original researches or experiments bearing directly on Agricultural industry*.

Already on April 16, 1906, the New York State Legislature designated Cornell University to receive nine-tenths of this increased appropriation and the remaining one-tenth to be paid to the New York Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva. Under the provisions of these Acts of 1887 and 1906, the total amount which the Geneva Experiment Station will receive therefrom, will be three thousand dollars annually.

By an Act of the Fifty-first Congress of the United States, approved by the President August 30, 1890, for the more complete endowment and support of *Agricultural Colleges* established in the several States under the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862, there was appropriated to each State, the sum of fifteen thousand dollars for the year ending June 30, 1890, and an annual increase, thereafter, for ten years, by an additional sum of one thousand dollars over the preceding year.

The annual sum to be paid to each State, from and after 1900, to be, therefore, \$25,000. (See Addenda page 27.)

Cornell University, has since 1890, received the entire amount appropriated for the State of New York, under this act of Congress, which prescribes the manner of application,—*instruction in Agriculture*, being the first named subject of instruction.

It will be seen that, the aggregate amount received by Cornell University under the Acts of Congress in aid of Agricultural Experiment Stations and under Act of 1890 in aid of Agricultural Colleges, already amounts to about fifty thousand dollars annually.

Although Cornell University had received the College Land Grant and the large benefits arising under Acts of Congress in aid of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations—together with many large private gifts and bequests—the Trustees of the University have in the past fifteen years or still earlier, been annual applicants to the State Legislature for financial aid—the only University or College in this State, which has received regular annual aid, for that period. These applications have usually been made in aid of some specific agricultural object, as for the *erection of buildings* for agricultural uses, or for the *maintenance* and support of certain Departments of Agriculture or special work connected therewith. These appropriations by the State, in aid of the University, in the past fifteen or twenty years, including appropriations for a Forestry school, authorized by Chapter 122, Laws of 1898 (which proved unsuccessful and has been dropped from the College Register) aggregate, including the year 1906, fully one and a quarter Millions of Dollars—of which amount, four hundred thousand dollars have been appropriated for buildings—including dairy buildings, veterinary college, machinery and horticultural buildings and (by acts of 1904 and 1906) for an Agricultural College Building.

The last named legislation (passed forty years after the bestowment of the United States Land Grant and chartering of Cornell University) is entitled "An Act to Establish a State College of Agriculture at Cornell University."

The Annual Appropriation and Supply bills passed by the Legislature in the past eight years, to go back no further, show annual appropriations averaging about Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000) per year, for *Agricultural maintenance and instruction* (including Veterinary Science) at Cornell University.

The Legislature of 1906, however, in the Annual Appropriation

Bill increased the appropriation to the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell, for the *promotion of agricultural knowledge* and for *maintenance of the College of Agriculture*, to One Hundred Thousand Dollars, and in addition appropriated the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars for the Veterinary College at Cornell University. (See Addenda pages 26, 27.)

Chapter 218 Laws of 1906, provides new features for the administration of the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University, by a *new statement of its objects and purposes, quite different from the provisions and requirements of the Cornell Charter of 1865, and Acts of Congress* applying to same. This act provides, that Cornell University "with whatever State money which may be received for the purpose" shall administer the said College of Agriculture.

In view of the large financial benefits received by Cornell University from the College Land Grant and the subsequent favorable legislation and benefits received from Congress and the Legislature of this State—the provisions of the above act, referred to, seem indeed remarkable. With an annual appropriation of Thirty-four Thousand, four hundred twenty-eight and eighty one-hundredths dollars (\$34,428.80) from the State College Land Script Fund, and Fifty Thousand dollars from the United States Congress—it would seem that Cornell University owes a great duty to the cause of Agricultural education, which cannot be lightly set aside, even if the State should decline to make annual appropriations for *maintenance*.

In order to continue the history of legislation as to Institutions established in this State, to promote agricultural education—reference must be made to the incorporation of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, by the Legislature, in the year 1881 and which has been in operation since March 1, 1882.

Notwithstanding the vast financial benefits bestowed upon Cornell University, it was deemed necessary, in order to promote agricultural knowledge (probably, in part, on account of the small farm connected with the University) to establish a separate experimental farm, already in 1881, by act of the Legislature, approved by Hon. Alonzo B. Cornell, then Governor of this State. The objects of the Experiment station at Geneva, were

declared to be "for the purpose of promoting Agriculture, in its various branches by scientific investigation and experiment" objects which the charter of the Ovid Agricultural College covered and which the requirements of the State Charter of Cornell University and Acts of Congress applying thereto, also seem to include.

In connection with the Geneva Experiment Station, a number of Sub-Stations, or test stations, have been established, in different parts of this State.

Data is not at hand, to give the entire cost of the Experiment Station at Geneva, with farm buildings and equipments, and the expense of annual maintenance of the same to date—but it is estimated, that the aggregate expenditure by the State therefor, fully reaches or exceeds the sum of one Million of Dollars.

The Geneva Experiment Station having had no share in the United States Land Grant and no endowment therefrom and receiving no large gifts or bequests—must rely upon the State Treasury principally, for its continuance and maintenance, with the exception of the small proportion of about three thousand dollars received under the Congressional Experiment Station Acts. This Experiment Station, however, has been devoted to important experiments in the interests of the farmer and horticulturist, and its work and the results ascertained and accomplished and promulgated by Bulletins, published and distributed, are very highly spoken of.

Had the State Agricultural College at Ovid, with its magnificent farm of nearly seven hundred acres, received proper encouragement from the State, with a portion of the Morrill College Land Grant and subsequent benefits conferred by acts of Congress—the writer firmly believes, that it could have been successfully maintained on the basis upon which it was chartered, and the necessity for the great outlay made for a separate Experiment Station and farm, could have been avoided.

When the (Morrill) College Land Grant Act of 1862, was passed, there were then already some persons interested in Agricultural education, who favored a division of so large a quantity of land, as was received by the State of New York, under the same, into two or three parts, and to be bestowed upon two or three Institutions to be located in different sections of the

State. Genesee College at Lima, was one of the applicants for a portion of this land Grant.

Had an equitable division been made in 1863, or prior to April 1865—of the United States lands, with the Agricultural College at Ovid, as one of the number of recipients, it might have settled questions as to the claims of localities, which are likely to arise.

For a number of years past, there has been some dissatisfaction with the location of a single agricultural school for this State, at Ithaca—as not centrally located.

In the Legislature of 1906, applications were made for the establishment of two additional Agricultural Colleges—one to be located at Canton, St. Lawrence County, and another at Cobleskill, Schoharie County. The application for the Canton Agricultural school was successful in passing both Houses of the Legislature, aided largely it is alleged through political influence—while the Cobleskill application failed to pass. The Governor of this State, on the 31st of May, 1906, approved the Act to establish a State School of Agriculture at Saint Lawrence University at Canton (a Denominational College of the Universalist Church) with an appropriation of eighty thousand dollars, as an entering wedge.

Tax payers of this State, may expect to hear, that this appropriation has hereafter been extended several hundred thousand dollars, for additional buildings with a large annual appropriation for *maintenance* of the College. The success of this application will encourage a renewal of the application for an agricultural school at Cobleskill—with another on Long Island, or in the vicinity of New York City and still others, with large additional outlays from the State Treasury.

What a marvelous transformation indeed, has taken place in legislation in this State, as to agricultural education, since the time when the State, by its Legislature, denied any real financial aid to the pioneer Agricultural College at Ovid—but only granted a loan, secured by mortgage upon the College farm!

In referring to the legislation in the past fifty-three years in relation to Agricultural Schools for higher agricultural education and the great liberality of this State to Cornell University, to the New York Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, and to St. Lawrence University at Canton—the writer must not be



understood to hold any unkind or unfriendly feeling toward either of these institutions.

As a citizen and resident in Seneca County, in the past seventy-three years, he felt at its inception, a deep interest in the success of the Agricultural College at Ovid—and the contrast between the liberality of the State by its Legislature, to the Institutions named and its narrow, illiberal and arbitrary treatment and action in relation to the Ovid State Agricultural College, has been very forcibly presented to him, from time to time. The writer always favored an Agricultural School, the leading objects of which should be similar to those included in the Ovid College Charter, and he truly and sincerely believes, that an institution organized upon that basis, as a distinctive Agricultural College, with an ample experiment farm, was what the farmers of the State required. He, therefore, never favored an Agricultural School as a mere department in a University or College plan. As to the success of an Agricultural College, in which the leading object of instruction is agricultural education, with its allied branches—reference may be made among others, to the Michigan Agricultural College at Lansing, to the Mississippi Agricultural College at Starkville and to the Massachusetts Agricultural College at Amherst. Each of these institutions received the small quota of its State under the Morrill College Land Grant Act, and each of the same, instructs all students in Agriculture, resident in the State where the College is located, free or substantially free of charge, for tuition.

The Ontario Agricultural College, located at Guelph, Canada, is another example of a successful agricultural school, in which agricultural education, is the leading object of instruction.

In these schools, especial attention is given to instruction in agriculture, horticulture, dairy husbandry, forestry, veterinary science and animal husbandry, also engineering and surveying—while agricultural Chemistry, Geology, Botany, Entomology, Astronomy, Meteorology and kindred subjects, are the principal branches of agricultural study.

It becomes our duty, in concluding this sketch, to give an account of the “last days” of the State Agricultural College at Ovid. As already stated, instruction in the College, closed to pupils in 1861—the exact date of closing, has not been ascer-

tained, but the College was not opened to pupils for the fall term in December of that year and the school was officially closed early in 1862.

During the years 1862, 1863 and 1864, the farming operations upon the College farm were in charge of the College Trustees.

It became evident in 1865 (after the success of the Ithaca movement became apparent), that there was no further hope of reviving the College at the close of the Civil war, and that the College farm would have to be disposed of. In fact, already, in 1862, a portion of the State College farm (part of the lands which were under personal mortgage, at the time when the Trustees purchased the same) was sold under Foreclosure Proceedings, leaving (including four acres acquired after the original purchase of the farm) about 475 acres in possession of the Trustees.

Doubtless intended as a compensation and consolation to the people of Ovid and vicinity, for the loss of the Agricultural College, the Legislature of 1865, already on April eighth (nineteen days before the passage of the Cornell University Charter and Land Grant) passed an act authorizing the Governor to appoint three commissioners for the purpose of selecting a suitable site for the erection of an Asylum for the Chronic pauper insane of the State.

These commissioners, soon after appointed by the Governor, were directed by the Act—first to seek for and select any property owned by the State, or upon which the State held a lien, etc.

The duties of these commissioners were thus so closely defined, that they could not well do otherwise than select the State Agricultural farm and buildings at Ovid, upon which the State, as already mentioned, held a mortgage lien, dated March 6, 1857, for money loaned to the College under Acts of the Legislature of 1856-57.

The Commissioners, therefore, selected and designated the College farm as the site for "Willard Asylum for the Insane" which had been incorporated by Chapter 342 Laws of 1865, and now known as "Willard State Hospital." The title to the farm was acquired and perfected under Mortgage foreclosure and the location of the Asylum was completed in 1865.

A statement as to the foreclosure proceedings, may be interesting: On July 5, 1860, the Trustees of the State Agricultural

College had obtained a loan of thirty thousand dollars from the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, secured by mortgage covering 475 acres of the College farm. This mortgage was foreclosed and the lands described therein, were sold at the Court House in the Village of Waterloo, by Rezin A. Wight as Referee, on December 15, 1865, to Hon. Charles J. Folger of Geneva for \$33,600 and who assigned his bid and purchase to the State of New York.

The Referee, thereupon conveyed the said College property to the People of the State of New York, by deed, dated December 26, 1865, thus placing the entire interest and title in the said property, in the State

There was, it is said, considerable dissatisfaction expressed on the day of sale, by persons who had subscribed and paid money, expressly subscribed for, and used for, the purchase of a farm for an Agricultural College in Seneca County, and who were cut off by this Foreclosure. There was no redress however, and the State acquired full title and possession of the College, with its farm land and premises.

This substantially closes the history of the old State Agricultural College at Ovid. In the collection of material for this sketch, the writer desires to express his thanks to Mrs. H. G. Hopkins, of Buffalo, N. Y. (formerly of Willard), to Dr. Wm. H. Brewer now of New Haven, Conn., to Dr. John B. Chapin, now of Philadelphia, Pa., to the County Clerk of Seneca County and to others, for information and favors extended to him.

It is not our purpose at this time, to follow up with a history of Willard State Hospital, of which an historical sketch was published in 1887. The State Agricultural College building was brought into use in 1870, and for a time was known as the "Branch,"—the Administration Building having been erected near the shore of Seneca Lake. The College or Branch Building was subsequently, in 1886, greatly altered and reduced in height, so that little is now left, to show its original handsome architectural proportions.

Additional buildings have from time to time been erected and additional lands purchased for the Asylum, by the State.

The Asylum was opened and the first patients were received at Willard for treatment, October 13, 1869, with Dr. John B.

Chapin as Medical Superintendent. It is sufficient to say here, that this Institution is a worthy State Charity and has from the beginning, been officered and managed efficiently, economically and humanely, for the relief of the unfortunates committed thereto, and in the best interest of the State. In recent years, there are usually between 2 200 and 2,300 patients under treatment there.

And yet, the writer is one of many persons who preferred and was strongly attached to the State Agricultural College at Ovid, and who still conscientiously believes, that if it had received a fair and just share of and portion in the bestowment of the United States College Land Grant under Act of Congress of 1862, and under subsequent Acts of Congress in aid of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations, that it would have met with success and would have continued its existence from these sources of support alone, without an annual call upon the State Legislature for maintenance, as a distinctive Agricultural College and Experiment farm and would have taken an honorable position among the Colleges of this State and Country.

“Of all sad words of tongue or pen,  
The saddest are these—‘it might have been!’ ”

## ADDENDA.

The publication of the foregoing Historical Paper having been unavoidably delayed, opportunity is now given to add the appropriations made to Cornell University by the State Legislature of 1907, to wit:

In annual appropriation bill:

For the State College of Agriculture for the promotion of agricultural knowledge, and for maintenance and equipment to conduct the College.....	\$150,000.00
(An increase of \$50,000 over the appropriation of 1906 and \$100,000 more than the appropriation of 1905).	
For the Veterinary College, for maintenance, etc.....	30,000.00
(An increase of \$5,000 over the appropriation of previous years).	

In the Annual Supply Bill:

An appropriation for completion of the equipment of the buildings of the State College of agriculture and for apparatus, etc., the sum of.....	50,000.00
(In addition to \$250,000 heretofore appropriated for Agricultural College building).	

Also for erection and equipment of barns for animals and for farm implements.....	25,000.00
	\$255,000.00

To which add the regular annual appropriation from the College Land Script Fund.....	34,428.80
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TOTAL..... \$289,428.80

As anticipated, the Legislature of 1907, appropriated ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the Agricultural School at St. Lawrence University, established last year, for **salaries and maintenance**—as a beginning.

Comment upon these appropriations is unnecessary,—they speak for themselves!

By act of the Fifty-ninth Congress of the United States, approved by the President, March 4, 1907, the sum of five thousand dollars each, was appropriated for the **more complete endowment and maintenance of Agricultural Colleges**, established in the several states under the College Land Grant Act (in addition to the amount heretofore appropriated annually under Act of August 30, 1890)—and five thousand dollars in each of the next four years. From and after June 30, 1911, the annual appropriation to each State, for Agricultural College, purposes by the Acts of Congress of 1890 and 1907, will therefore reach fifty thousand dollars—in addition to moneys appropriated under Acts of Congress of 1887 and 1906, in aid of Agricultural Experiment Stations, as already stated.

Varick, N. Y., Aug. 20, 1907.

D. W.







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